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PARKS AND RECREATION



summer.

Borgatti Park, Perry Lane Park and Shea Field are all seeing upgrades, there's a new dog park opening this year, and Wade Park is also on the town's to-do list.

'We try to do a good balance of tak-

ground, pavilion and volleyball court, and almost 200 additional parking spaces — the work at Perry Lane was less glamorous. There won't be any grand ribbon-cutting for resurfaced tennis courts, but the \$23,000 fix was "a wise investment," Sparks said.

good as new, Sparks said. He said small fixes like those, once a decade, would allow the town to keep the courts in playable condition without requiring another massive reconstruction.

PARKS I page 6

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor asks for police law again

By Gregory A. Scibelli ascibelli@turley.com

The mayor is willing to compromise on raising the retirement age for special police, but it's not enough for some on the City Council, who defeated a similar proposal two months ago and are asking for no increase in the retirement age, or a curtailment of the auxiliary force's police pow-

The City Council plans to reconsider the matter at its July 13 meeting. The new proposal would allow special police officers to serve until age 68. The council turned down a similar request in a 7-4 vote in May, when Cohen was asking for a retirement age of

At a Legislative Subcommittee meeting on June 29, Councilor Robert Rossi renewed his objection to any change in the current retirement age of 65.

"This council already turned this down," said Rossi. "Why are

POLICE **I** page 9

FUTURE AUTHOR PROGRAM

Young AJHS writers are published authors

By Mike Lydick aan@turley.com

hen Sophia Strain saw her book finally published in hardcover she couldn't believe it was real.

"I had to stare at the book several times to make sure it was real," said the 14-year-old AJHS student. Her book - along with more than 300 others written by AJHS eighth graders - was displayed at the school's library last month during a book-signing event attended by students and their family members.

Strain and her classmates are the only students in the nation who used an innovative writing program to help them become published authors. Electronic and traditional hardcover versions of their books were pub-

AUTHORS I page 8



AJHS English teacher Stephanie Harris talks with eighth grader Kayla Poulin, one of more than 300 student-authors whose published books were on display at a recent book-signing event. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

Longtime counselors bid farewell after decades of service

By Michael J. Ballway mballway@turley.com

The work slows down about this time every year for Alan Cohen and Frank Meagher, so the now-former Agawam High School guidance counselors don't expect to truly grasp what retirement means yet.

"I'm going to feel retired in September," said Meagher. "It'll be the first time in 67 years 1 don t have to go back to school."

Cohen and Meagher, the two longest-tenured guidance counselors at the high school, worked their last days at AHS this week. Cohen has been there 26 years, Meagher 17. The next longest tenure in the counseling office is 6-7 years, Cohen said.

Cohen, who is Mayor Richard Cohen's twin brother, started as

a guidance counselor in 1989. He had been a junior high school mathematics teacher at Smith Academy in Hatfield for 10 years before coming to Agawam. In addition to working as a counselor, he also ran the night school and summer school for 20 years.

His favorite part of the job was interacting with the students.

"It keeps you young, because at the same time, you're always learning yourself," Cohen said.

The hardest part of the job, he said, was working with the parents who had unrealistic expectations of what a guidance counselor can accomplish.

"We can't make the students learn overnight," Cohen said. "They think we can 'fix' the problem, like we have a magic wand.

RETIRE **I** page 6

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Are You Old News?



Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon

to aan@turley.com. Please include your first and last name.

Last week's photo: There were no correct entries for Courtney Limbert.



Farewell, Ace



The burial procession for Leslie "Ace" Melanson prepares to leave Agawam Congregational Church on June 19. Melanson, a prominent member of the church and owner of A-C-E Auto Body on Main Street, died at age 73 in January; his family and friends gathered to inter his ashes last month. Participating in the procession were tow trucks from A-C-E and several classic cars, including Melanson's beloved red-and-white 1955 Ford Fairlane Crown Victoria, in which he shared his final trip with his wife Dale. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

Six Flags July 4 to last 3 days

Six Flags New England will celebrate the 4th of July with a three-daylong extravaganza called "Coca-Cola Fourth Fest," the largest Independence Day celebration ever to take place at the property.

To honor the men and women who are serving our nation, the park will be inviting all active and retired military, with valid identification, to Six Flags New England for free throughout the threeday event. Friends and family

members of the military will be able to enter the park for only \$38.50 each, valid up to four people.

Each evening at 9:30 p.m., guests will be able to enjoy a firework presentation. The 15-minutes presentation will be visible to guests from anywhere throughout the property and will be orchestrated to patriotic music. Operating hours will be 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day.

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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High marks, high praise for school superintendent's performance

William Sapelli

By Mike Lydick aan@turley.com

School Superintendent William Sapelli received an overall performance rating of exemplary in his annual evaluation by the School Committee - an improvement from last year's proficient rating.

The committee voted unanimously to approve this performance rating at its June 23 meeting. The overall rating is developed

from a compilation of individual performance ratings from the seven committee members who rate Sapelli's progress toward achieving goals and meeting specific standards.

The superintendent and all other Agawam educators can achieve one of four overall performance ratings: needs improvement, unsatisfactory, proficient, or exemplary. The highest rating — reserved for educators "whose practice in a

particular area is so strong that it can be a model for others" — is rare. Most effective educators are expected to be rated "proficient" on a standard, according to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

The evaluation was based in part on a three-ring binder of documents submitted by Sapelli showing his work over the past year. Sapelli's overall evaluation indicated he had exceeded the goals set for him in the fields of professional practice and student learning, and had met his district improvement goals. Sapelli was found to have been exemplary in management and operations, family and community engagement, and professional culture, and proficient in instructional leadership.

Performance praised

The town's education leader also received high praise from committee members in the comments sections of their individual evaluations.

Mayor Richard Cohen, who chairs the school board, singled out Sapelli's diligent efforts to ensure the district's priorities are met for faculty, staff and students. He gave Sapelli an overall performance rating of proficient in his evaluation.

Cohen wrote that Sapelli "works collaboratively" with the principals and the administration to increase the number of students who score at the proficient level or above on state tests.

According to the mayor, Sapelli has achieved this by improving the district's technology infrastructure, by providing professional development that focuses on improving educators' knowledge to teach core academic content in the classroom, and by increasing the number of students who take Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Diane Juzba, the committee vice chairman, wrote that Sapelli has "done a fantastic job" of moving the district forward while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

"I gave him an overall rating of exemplary because of his leadership skills, his ability to work under pressure and remain professional, and his commitment to our students," she wrote. Additionally, Juzba called his commitment to the district "ad-

'A shining example'

Sapelli continues to "be a shining example" of "good leadership" in Agawam's schools, wrote Wendy Rua. While she gave him an overall rating of proficient, she rated him exemplary for his leadership in management and operations as well as family and community engagement.

She cited more than 10 examples of what she called his "outstanding leadership" - such as

responding to kindergarten teachers frustrated by a new assessment tool, or his work to keep school safety in the forefront, or making construction of a new Early Childhood Center a district priority.

In her evaluation comments, Shelley Reed called Sapelli "a true asset" to the dis-

"He maintains a very professional culture and puts forward best practices for maximizing student achievement. He is a strong communicator and excels at communicating the needs and accomplishments of the district through written reports, communication, public meetings, and attendance at school events," wrote Reed.

Reed, who rated Sapelli overall as exemplary, also commended Sapelli for his work on the school budget: "He excels at developing a strong, productive, fiscally responsible, and transparent budget" that meets the district's needs. "His method of developing and presenting our district's budget should be used as an example in other districts," she added.

Roberta Doering, whose overall rating for Sapelli also was exemplary, wrote in her evaluation that Agawam is "very fortunate" to have Sapelli as its superintendent.

Carmino Mineo gave Sapelli a rating of proficient, called him an "excellent" superintendent and praised his leadership skills. Mineo wrote that Sapelli "leads by example" and "solves problems decisively

Anthony Bonavita wrote that Sapelli "operates at the highest level" in five of the seven categories in which he was evaluated. Bonavita gave Sapelli an overall rating of exemplary. He added that Sapelli's communication with the school committee is at a "high" level through a variety of methods, including text messages, emails and phone calls.



From left, Nick Uschmann, Ethan Stack and Jordan Stack put on a magic show for the Debra Lane neighborhood last month. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

Doing good – in a day

Ten-year-olds host driveway magic show for charity

By Michael J. Ballway

mballway@turley.com

Ten-year-old Jordan Stack made a charity fundraiser appear in just 24 hours. How's that for a magic trick?

Jordan, who recently completed the fourth grade at Phelps School, raised \$60 for the Wounded Warrior Project through donations and \$1 magic show tickets on one afternoon last month — and only a day after learning about the charity.

According to his mother, Sarah Rose Stack, Jordan got the idea from the son of one of her work associates. Jordan had a chance to chat with Mason Ritchotte, who goes to school in Connecticut, during a barbecue that their families attended on June 7. Mason told him about a school project intended to teach initiative and and civic participation.

'The kids had to take their own nonprofit organization, research it and figure out how to raise money for it," Stack said. "Mason was explaining it to Jordan and Jordan got really inspired by it."

"I thought it would be nice if I did it, too," Jordan recalled.

The next day, at Phelps, Jordan told his friend Nick about the the group that Mason had researched, the Wounded Warrior Project, and about the idea that elementarv-aged kids could set up a fundraiser. They immediately decided to hold a magic show in the neighborhood that night, design and print flyers immediately after school, and sell tickets door-to-door that afternoon. An entertainment fundraiser made sense, Iordan said.

"It came to me, that when they [the audience] smile, they'd be raising money to make other people smile, too," Jordan said.

With his younger brother Ethan as an assistant, Jordan performed a 30-minute set of magic tricks that he had learned from a magician he met on a family trip to London earlier this year. His repertoire includes card tricks and disappearing tricks.

"They did the show, which was really, really good," Sarah Rose Stack said. "All the neighbors were cracking up, because they didn't expect it to be good."

Thirteen neighbors attended the June 8 performance on the Stacks' driveway on Debra Lane. After the performance, Jordan turned over the money to his parents, who made a donation to Wounded Warrior on-

Later in the month, Jordan and Nick took up a collection on Nick's street, raising \$40, which the Stacks matched for an \$80 donation. Jordan said he enjoyed performing and raising money for a good cause, and hopes to do it again later this summer.

Wounded Warrior Project, founded in 2003, aids in the rehabilitation of wounded service members returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, and their transition to family and civilian life. The program helps tens of thousands of veterans, family members and caregivers each year. For more information. visit woundedwarriorproject.org.



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Chariots of the Fire Department

very municipal ambulance service has a Rescue-1 or an Ambulance-1. Even the smallest part-time department, even if it only has the one truck, gives it a generic name and attaches the number 1.

How many of them can say they have a chariot? Agawam's Fire Department does. Thanks to Jeymi Perez, the Phelps School student who won the school's name-the-ambulance contest, the new Rescue-1 in Agawam now has the nickname "St. Raphael's Chariot," printed in large letters on an overhang above the cab.

It's the first Agawam Fire Department vehicle to earn an official nickname, but Fire Chief Alan Sirois hopes it won't be the last. He got the idea from the city of Springfield, which also gives its Fire Department vehicles nicknames in addition to their more prosaic designations (Engine-1, Engine-3, Ladder-1, etc.). Sirois said last week that he intends to hold name-the-vehicle contests at local elementary schools each time a new ambulance or fire truck is placed into service.

For now, it's just one ambulance, so it may seem a little odd that if you need help in the section of town $served \ by \ the \ head quarters \ station - roughly \ speak$ ing, the "Agawam" side of Agawam — you'll have an archangel and a chariot coming to your rescue.

The out-of-the-ordinary nickname may turn some heads around town, at hospitals or among fire and rescue professionals across the region. At first blush, it seems a little frivolous and cute to give a nickname to a very serious piece of equipment — a truck that carries lifesaving EMTs and transports car crash victims, burn victims, people undergoing a heart attack and other emergency patients.

And for operational purposes, the dispatchers will probably stick with the familiar, formal name — you're not going to hear "St. Raphael's Chariot en route to that MVA on Main Street" over the public safety radio scanner. So what's the point?

As Sirois pointed out last week, holding the naming contest at a local school gave his department a reason to interact in a positive way with youth. Students are used to seeing firefighters speeding by to respond to an emergency, or conducting fire safety drills — neither one a particularly relaxed setting. Participating in the contest shows them a "fun" side of the Fire Department.

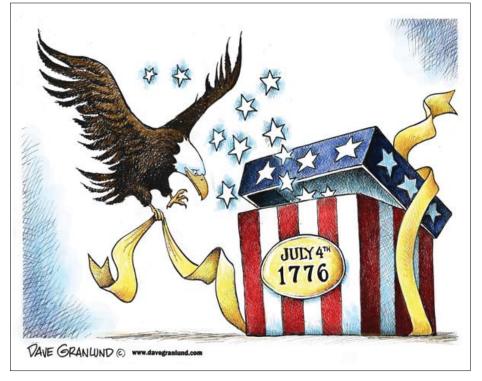
It builds community. For as long as St. Raphael's Chariot is in service, Jeymi Perez and his family will lift their heads whenever they hear a siren and, if it's Rescue-1, they'll point at it and say: That's my name. To a lesser extent, every Phelps fourth-grader who participated in that contest will be able to say, about their local ambulance, I helped name that. That promotes a deep sense of investment in the community among youth — the idea that this is, after all, their town, where their opinions are heard, where their classmates and neighbors make the decisions.

It makes a statement. This time, the winning entry named an archangel in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Next time, students may choose to honor an inspirational local public figure, a champion of fire safety, or an event in the town's history. Like the names on schools and streets, the nicknames on Fire Department vehicles will become a way for the town to show its appreciation for the past, and remind us of the values we hold.

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to aan@turlev.com.



Following a name-the-ambulance contest at Phelps School, the town's new ambulance is officially nicknamed "St. Raphael's Chariot." TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



JAY SPEAKS

Judicial surprises

Jay Berger

itty and I signed on for a cruise anal, as well as other ports of call in court. I sat down and waited for several

Mexico and Central America. As on most cruises, we met some wonderful people and spent a lot of time with them during the

In particular, I became "best buddies" with three men. One was a judge in Vermont. Another was an executive with a public broadcasting TV station in Virginia, and the third, although retired, spent most of his time cheering on Notre Dame and University of Kentucky athletes.

While our wives took advantage of the times that the ship docked and went on the excursions, the four of us stayed aboard ship, had some drinks and solved the problems of the world, up on deck and around the pool.

When the cruise ended, we promised to stay in touch, perhaps go on another cruise together, or at any rate, visit if we were in each others' hometowns. The judge said to each of us to see him if we needed help in

Time passed and I went back to work. One part of our business was hauling newspapers for Dow Iones, who owned the Wall Street Journal and Barron's. Our trucks brought the papers to the airports, New York City, Boston, New Jersey and north through Vermont to Canada. One day, our north driver reported that he was pulled over in Southern Vermont for not only speeding, but being overweight.

I looked at his paperwork and we were being fined \$1,200. I remembered my time on the cruise and the judge that promised to help if he could. I calculated that even if I saved only half the cost, it was worth the trip, if I went to court and defended our case. I called ahead, got the judge's secretary, mentioned the court date, docket number, and said that I was on a cruise with His Honor and had some pictures that I wanted to share with him of the cruise.

On the appropriate date I drove north (under the speed limit), planning on getting to the court a bit early so that I might see the judge. Sure enough, I had time for lunch before court time and walked over to the courthouse.

I announced myself to the bailiff, and ship that traversed the Panama Ca-said that I wanted to see the judge before

> minutes, watching all the action that took place before court hearings. I had just about given up on my quest when the secretary came out and said the judge had a few minutes to see me now. I gathered my papers and pictures together and followed her to the judge's cham-

> His Honor was hunched over some papers on his desk and he did not look up when he asked. "What can I do for you?"

Although I knew him as Mark from the cruise, I addressed him formally: "Your honor, I brought you some pictures from our time on the ship."

With that, I stepped toward him with the envelope full of pictures. Mark looked up and pressed a button on his desk. The door behind him opened and the bailiff appeared. The judge said, "Bailiff, this man is offering me a bribe. You know what we do with bribery people. Arrest him!" The bailiff came toward me with handcuffs and I began trembling.

All of a sudden, the judge began laughing, and roaring out loud, "I got you, Jay!" He surely did.

There was no more tension. We hugged and asked about wives and others. We spoke of my court case and he assured me that things were not as bleak as it looked. A few minutes later, court convened. It turned out that the weigh station scales had a problem that day and the patrol person who clocked our truck could not find his paperwork. The judge assessed us \$100 for court costs.

When the court took a recess I was called back to his chambers. I thanked him for his help, left the pictures. We stayed in touch for a while and then lost track of each other. When Kitty and I drive north now. we watch our speed. We do not want to see that bailiff with handcuffs.

Jay Berger is retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchil-



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Dump cake

Ann Macey

everal years ago, my brother-in-law Chris requested a dump cake for his birthday. I must say that I was very pleased that he had requested such an easy

recipe. Since then he has married a woman who takes very good care of him and I haven't had a reason to make it again, until one of you recently made the request. Since my genre of cooking is two-serving recipes, I chose to give you both a recipe for two, and a family-size recipe. There are other variations of this simple cake including a pumpkin dump cake, chocolate dump cake, and apple dump cake. I could not include all of them

here and so I have posted 11 variations on my website, www.AnnsTableForTwo.com.

Due to the water content from the fruit on the bottom, I have not found it necessary to prep the baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. After making this cake in several different size pans and with fresh and frozen fruit, I would suggest that you check it after baking for 40 minutes. When the edges are golden brown, it is done.

Dump Cake (for 2)

1 (15 oz.) can peach halves 1 1/4 C. yellow or white cake mix 3 T. softened butter

Drain peaches and cut into bite-size chunks. Discard juice. Spread peaches on bottom of an 8-inch x 4-inch loaf pan. In a medium bowl, combine butter and cake mix with a fork or pastry blender. 'Dump" and spread cake mix evenly over top of

> peaches. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 40 to 50 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm or at room temperature. Yield: 2 servings.

> Notes: I have substituted 2 to 3 cups of slightly thawed frozen raspberries. Variation: Sprinkle 1 teaspoon brown sugar and 3 to 4 teaspoons chopped walnuts on top before baking. This gives it a crunchier texture and a better presentation.

Dump Cake (family size)

3 - 4 C. frozen berries (slightly thawed) 1 box yellow or white cake mix 1 stick butter

Placed berries on the bottom of a 9inch x 13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle cake mix evenly over top of berries. Cut butter into 16 pats and place them evenly over cake mix. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 40 to 50 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm or at room temperature. Yield: 8 to 12 servings

Ann Macey is the author of "Ann's Table for Two: Quick & Easy Two Serving Recipes." Ann welcomes your questions and comments at AnnsTable@gmail.com.

Town among first to sign state compact

Agawam was the first Western Massachusetts town to sign the Commonwealth Community Compact last week, a mutual pledge with the state to adopt practices that Gov. Charlie Baker's administration says will spur economic development and aid local government.

Mayor Richard Cohen signed the document in a joint appearance with Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito on June 24 at the Agawam Public Library. Earlier in the day, Polito had met with city leaders in Worcester and Gardner, the first two cities to sign the compact.

In the document, among other commitments, the state promises to "be a reliable partner on local aid," work to reduce unfunded mandates, pay special attention to the needs of cities and towns when considering state regulations, and give towns that have signed the Community Compact a preference in receiving state grants.

In return, Agawam pledged to partner with businesses and nonprofits on housing and economic development; maintain "a community-supported housing plan that accounts for changing demographics"; and maintain an economic development plan.

Cohen said this week that that the town's pledges are actions it would have taken anyway, so signing the agreement has no cost, but substantial benefits.

"They will help us and give us the re-

New Covenant Free Clinic, a free medical

clinic, is being co-sponsored by New Cove-

Free adult medical clinic at Bethany



Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and Mayor Richard Cohen display a copy of the Commonwealth Community Compact at a meeting held recently at the Agawam Public Library. SUBMITTED PHOTO

sources we need and the support to get these things done," Cohen said. "It allows us to hopefully fast-track" housing and economic development," and "make it happen, hopefully, quicker."

According to the mayor, cities and towns across the state were invited to apply for a Commonwealth Community Compact. Each town was asked to pick three "community commitments" from a list.

Pit bull photo display by library's assistant director

The Agawam Public Library will exhibit the work of one its own for the month of July. The photography of Jolene Mercadante, assistant director at the library, will be on display at the library beginning in late June and through the month of July.

Spread the Rumer LLC is a local business started by Mercadante. Named after her first American pit bull terrier, Rumer, it was started partly to help combat the unfair stereotypes many people have toward pit bulls. Because of these stereotypes and discrimination towards these dogs, many are abused, fought, or abandoned in shelters, where they find themselves overlooked and never adopted. Only one out of 600 pit bulls make it out of shelters.

Because of Rumer, Mercadante felt an obligation to help these dogs in every way possible. This included writing a memoir of her life with Rumer, called "The Angel on My Shoulder," which is available at most area libraries and online. She also attended book talks, events and fundraisers to support her advocacy for the pit bull breed. Her passion and mission is to change how people view pit bulls and help save lives in the process. She uses every avenue available to do so.

lower level. For

Little did she know how much of a role social media would play in helping her reach this goal. Because of Instagram, Mercadante started training her pit bulls to pose for photographs. While she prefers natural photos, many Instagram followers love when her dogs are dressed up or posing. This made her realize that photography shows would be another avenue to help change the pit bull image. Surprisingly, it has proven to be the most effective platform yet.

Whether through writing, speaking and now photography exhibits, Mercadante hopes she can impact the way people think and reveal the breed that was once the "All-American Dog."

Mercadante's work will be featured on the gallery walls of the library at 750 Cooper St., as well as the display case on the

more information, visit @ mylifeinpits on Instagram.

nant Community Services and Bethany Assembly of God on Tuesday, July 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. The clinic will provide non-emergent care for people age 18 and over. "The mission is to provide medical care in the Pioneer Valley community by the serving body, mind and spirit with com-

passionate Christ centered care," explained Dr. Kevin Snow, the clinic physician. Although people are required to have insurance in Massachusetts, in the current economic condition some people cannot afford the co-payments to see their pri-

mary care physician for immediate non-

emergency medical issues. The free clinic is intended to help these individuals receive the medical care they need.

The staff of licensed medical care workers is volunteering time and skills, and no revenue will be collected for the services provided. The entire team is committed to providing quality care on all levels. A visit to the clinic will include a demographic check in, medical assessment and spiritual encouragement. The free clinic will operate once a month at Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam. All medical records will be kept in strict confidence.

For more information, call the clinic at 413-363-0098.



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PARKS **■** from page 1

The Skate Park, at Shea Field off Maynard Street, was "the exact same thing," an \$8,748 expense to even out some low spots that had developed over the years and move around some of the ramps and other equipment. The Skate Park also sits on former tennis courts that had become unplayable through neglect.

Across the driveway, the new Agawam Dog Park is almost complete, Sparks said — the town is just waiting for the grass to thicken up, and a few minor additions such as signage and parking spot striping. Sparks acknowledged that dog owners are anxious to see the park open, but said the wide lawns are worth the wait.

"People are very excited about getting that park open," Sparks said. "We receive calls almost daily. [But] not many dog parks have grass in them, but not many dog parks are as big as ours. I think the grass will survive as long as we allow it to mature before we open it up."

The dog park includes two separate, fenced-in play areas-a one-acre section open to all dogs, and a half-acre section reserved for dogs 25 pounds or less.

Parks and Rec is also working on two enclosed structures, the concession and restroom structure at Borgatti Park and what will now be a storage shed at Shea Field.

The Borgatti building, a \$40,000 project, replaces the former bathrooms, which were not handicap-accessible and had been closed for at least the past 15 years. The new building includes a concession stand to be operated by a caterer, and a storage room for men's softball league.

At Shea Field, immediately beside the skate park, a former Department of Public Works building abandoned since 2008 is being turned into public restrooms and a storage shed for town agencies and nonprofit groups, at a cost of about \$30,000. The shed needed an entirely new roof, a thorough cleaning and new interior walls. Once completed, organizations such as the Beautification Committee and Cultural Council will have a secure location, 10 feet by 10 feet, to store equipment, signage and other seasonal items that, in many cases, are currently being housed at committee members' homes.

Once School Street and the dog park are open, Sparks already has the next construction project in mind. Wade Park, on Franklin Street a couple hundred feet off Springfield Street, is currently an open field with a basketball court in the corner. Sparks envisions picnic shelters and a small playground, in addition to rehabilitating the basketball court.

"If things go right and we get the CPA funding, we can plan over the winter and hopefully build next spring,"



Joe Thibault of Southwick, 20, rides his skateboard on a rail at the Shea Field Skate Park.

Sparks said.

CPA — the Community Preservation Act — is one of the reasons that these projects are not costing the town's general budget a dime. The town's CPA account, funded by a surcharge on local property taxes and annual grants from the state, contributed \$14,000 to the dog park, to go along with the \$10,000 raised by ADOG, the Agawam Dog Owners Association, and the \$245,000 grant from the Stanton Foundation. The CPA and tennis court rental fees paid the full cost of the Perry Lane tennis court; the CPA, Berkshire Power Gift Account and men's softball fees paid the full cost of the Borgatti construction.

The Berkshire Power Gift Account is a \$65,000 payment to the town — increasing every year — by the operators of the Berkshire power station on Moylan Drive. The money is split among the library, Parks and Rec, and the Beautification Committee.

Berkshire money paid the entirety of the skate park project. Berkshire and the CPA together funded the renovation of the storage shed at Shea Field.



The grass is almost ready at the Agawam Dog Park, adjacent to



Wade Park, currently a basketball court and an open field, may be Parks and Rec's next construction project. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

RETIRE ■ from page 1

We're the first point of contact. They call us when they're

Meagher has been a guidance counselor since 1975, starting at Agawam Junior High School and moving to the senior high in 1998. Like Cohen, he is a former teacher: one and a half years at Holy Name School in Springfield, and three years as a grade 5-6 teacher at Phelps School in Agawam. Before starting his teaching career, Meagher spent seven years in a Catholic seminary.

He was attracted to counseling because "you're always helping people."

Students have changed over his decades in education, he said. More children are going to college, but it seems harder to motivate them to take school seriously, particularly boys. Particularly for freshmen and sophomores, Meagher said, it can be a challenge "getting them to realize that every single grade, every single marking period, they all count."

Future plans

The two counselors have diverging plans for retirement: Though Cohen has been at the high school longer, Meagher is the older of the two men, and past the traditional retirement age. He waited until this year to retire so that his wife Carol, a school nurse in Somers, Conn., could join him. The Meaghers will look after their grandchildren for five weeks this summer and spend time on hobbies — for Frank, refinishing furniture and gardening. He's also a member of the Agawam Conservation Commission and is looking forward to finally being able to participate in site visits during school hours.



Frank Meagher, left, and Alan Cohen at a sendoff party attended by their Agawam High School colleagues June 16 at Oak Ridge Country Club. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

He is looking forward to travel. Retirement means he can spend more time with his daughter Beth and her family outside Raleigh, N.C., and it means the Meaghers can finally take a trip with their daughter Colleen to visit their son-in-law's family in Cologne, in time to see Germany's famed Christmas markets, which had always closed for the season by the time Agawam schools let out for Christmas break. They're also planning to visit Amsterdam on the

Cohen, at age 57, plans to continue working for five or 10 more years, in some education- or counseling-related

Agawam's ten retiring teachers

Ten educators are retiring from Agawam public schools this summer, many of them with more than two decades of experience.

- · Frank Meagher, high school guidance counselor, 45 years at Agawam schools
- · Joyce Rheaume, Clark School grade 1 teacher, 28 years
- Susan Murphy, Phelps School grade 3 teacher, 26 years Alan Cohen, high school guidance coun-
- selor, 25 years · Meredith Quitno, Doering School music teacher, 24 years
- · Margaret Bitzas, Clark School grade 2 teacher, 23 years
- · Kathleen King, Clark School grade 3 teacher, 22 years
- Kathleen Jamroz, Robinson Park School Title I teacher, 16 years
- · Holly Fidrych, special education speech and language specialist, 12 years
- · Karen Adams, high school one-on-one paraprofessional, 12 years



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Five generations

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 367 calls for service from June 23 to June 29. The department made seven arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Wednesday, June 24

Mathew James Lewis, 27, of 12 Lenox St., Feeding Hills, was arrested on a charge of breaking and entering a building in the daytime for felony.

Christopher Cameron Thomas, 22, of 20 Porter St., Chicopee, was arrested on a charge of breaking and entering a building in the daytime for felony.

Joseph James Michon, 20, of 27 Chester St., Springfield, was arrested on a charge of trespassing.

Friday, June 26

A juvenile from Springfield was arrested charges of assault and battery and unarmed robbery.

Saturday, June 27

Cindy Wonzy, 43, of 75 Autumn Road, West Springfield, was arrested on a charge of shoplifting by concealing merchandise

Heriberto Rivera, 45, of 21 Freemont St., Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating a motor vehicle with license suspended and motor vehicle operator refusing to identify self.

Sunday, June 28

Patrick J. Kana, 33, of 155 River St., Apt. D6, West Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of alcohol and negligent operation of a mo-

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 65 EMS calls for June 23 to June 29, and the following emergency response calls.

On June 23 at 9:11 p.m., the department responded to Zachary Lane for smoke or odor removal.

On June 24 at 2:32 a.m., the department responded to Butternut Drive for CO detector activation due to mal-

On June 24 at 5:20 p.m., the department responded to River Road for good intent call, other.

On June 25 at 3:56 p.m., the department responded to Ridgeway Drive for public service assistance, other.

On June 25 at 4:05 p.m., the department responded to North West Street for motor vehicle accident with in-

On June 25 at 9:16 p.m., the department responded to North Street for citizen complaint.

On June 26 at 1:31 a.m., the department responded to Norman Terrace for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On June 26 at 9:44 a.m., the department responded to Washington Avenue Ext. for citizen complaint.

On June 26 at 9:18 p.m., the department responded

to Meadow Street for passenger vehicle fire.

On June 27 at 6:16 p.m., the department responded to Pheasant Hills Drive for public service.

On June 27 at 8:26 a.m., the department responded to Franklin Street Ext. for gas leak, natural gas or LPG.

On June 27 at 2:28 p.m., the department responded to Shoemaker Lane for motor vehicle accident with in-

On June 28 at 6:02 a.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for structure fire, other, conversion

On June 28 at 10:38 a.m., the department responded to North Street, was dispatched and canceled en route.

On June 29 at 9:11 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for alarm system activation, no fire

On June 29 at 10:31 a.m., the department responded to Cecile Street for lockout.

On June 29 at 8:36 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for good intent call, other.

On June 29 at 4:24 p.m., the department responded to Henry Street for system malfunction, other..

nounced the following events. To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit www.aga-

Music, plant walk, home brews at library in July

Eleanor C. Robinson (back row, left), a 65-year resident of Agawam, was among fam-

ily members to welcome the fifth generation of her family, Gavin Reyome, born May 27,

2015. Pictured with the proud great-great-grandmother are great-grandmother Judith

R. Tetreault, of Agawam (center); grandmother Sharon Reyome, of Westfield; and Robert

The Agawam Public Library has anwamlibrary.org.

Reyome, of Westfield, Gavin's dad. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Monday, July 13: Area journalist Elizabeth Roman returns to the Agawam Public Library at 7 p.m. with more ice cream for grownups to taste and rate. This is an adult-only event.

Tuesday, July 14: A Celebration of American Musical Heroes with Craig Harris, a family event that begins at 6:30 p.m. This musical program uses a fun-filled range of songs to pay tribute to the pioneers of American music, including Armstrong, Gershwin, Guthrie, Seeger, Dylan and Charles.

Monday, July 20: Edible Plants Walk and Talk at 6:30 p.m. with Rich Giordano, the manager of All Hill Farm in West Brookfield and the Sturbridge Village Historic Herb Garden. Participants should wear comfortable shoes to join Giordano on a walk behind the library and high school searching for edible plants. The best time of year for harvest and recipes will be dis-

Tuesday, July 21: Hanna Perlstein Marcus, author of "Sidonia's Thread," at 6:30 p.m. Born to a talented seamstress in a displaced persons camp, attendees will hear how Marcus searched for the identity of her absent father, the reasons for her Holocaust survivor mother's reclusive life in America and why she can't sew. Much of this book is set locally in Springfield.

Tuesday, July 28: Creating Green Smoothies with Julie Salvato, the "Happy Veg Head," at 7 p.m. Salvato will show participants how to create and taste four green smoothies, learn about the health benefits of super foods and leave with some delicious recipes.

Tuesday, July 30: Home Brewing Workshop presented by the Skyline Hop Shop at 7 p.m. Participants will learn the basics of home brewing and what they need to get started. The Skyline Hop Shop will offer tips and tricks.

These events are part of the Adult Summer Reading Program and sponsored by one or more of the following: the Agawam Center Library Association, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Collaborative Summer Library Program.

Hampden sheriff cited as model agency

LUDLOW — According to a report recently released by the New York-based Vera Institute of Justice, titled the "Price of Jails," the Hampden County correctional system has reduced its inmate population by 30 percent since 2008, resulting in an annual savings of \$13.1 million, as compared to what the annual budget would be if the inmate count had not been reduced. The inmate count is 624 less on a daily basis than it was in 2008. The three-year rate of return to jail by those who have been released, or recidivism, has been reduced at the Hampden County Correctional Center by 27 percent since 2001.

Sheriff Michael J. Ashe Jr. credits this reduction of inmates and resultant cost saving to the "broad and deep effort that the Hampden County Sheriff's Department staff makes to challenge those in its custody to pick up the tools and directions to build a law-abiding life."

Specifically, the Hampden County Correctional Center has a policy whereby those in its custody should spend 40 hours per week in productive activities such as work within the institution or programs that prepare them to be law-abiding citizens.

The Sheriff's Department has also developed a three-month re-entry continuum of gradual, supervised, supported community re-entry by offenders and has partnered with 300 community nonprofits to assist in this effort.

In the "Day Reporting" program, begun by Ashe in 1987, offenders at the end of their sentence are allowed to live at home, monitored by GPS and day reporting staff. They adhere to a strict daily schedule of community programs and work, report in daily and are subject to urine and breathalyzer substance use screening tests. The cost to supervise an offender in day reporting is considerably less than the cost of 24-7 incarceration in a correctional facility.

"Most importantly," the sheriff said, "this program has been safe, because participants are carefully selected and very closely monitored and supervised."

Ashe went on to say that although day reporting is at the end of the continuum of community re-entry by offenders, "re-entry begins on day one of incarceration."

Troop 185 to hold can, bottle drive

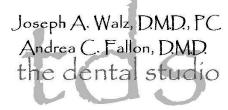
and bottle drive on Saturday, July 11. Drop-off is in front of the Agawam First Baptist Church, 760 Main St., from 9

Boy Scout Troop 185 will hold a can a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds from the event will help defray the cost of campouts and other scout functions.

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Dr. Joseph Walz





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lished in early June as part of a writing project called the Future Author Program.

Michele Brennan, vice president for marketing and communications at Agawam-based Bridgeport National Bindery, created the program in 2014 and her company continues to provide support. This is the second group of AJHS eighth graders who wrote 24-page books in one of five genres — fiction, nonfiction, memoir, poetry, or graphic novel (fiction in comic book form).

Completed books were uploaded to an electronic book tool provided by online publisher Lulu.com, which will sell the books for two years. Brennan said all royalties from the sales go back into the pro-

"It's a self-funding program — monies can be used to go on field trips, invite guest speakers or, if they so wish, to purchase items necessary for the program," she said.

Book fulfills dream

For Strain, the book wasn't just another school project — it was a dream come

"I've wanted to be an author ever since I was a little girl," she said.

Her book, "Unbroken Promises," is a combination mystery and love story about a boy who will do anything to be with the girl of his dreams.

"It was a great experience — I'd do it again if I could. It was hard in the beginning, but it paid off in the end," said Strain.

Jenna Grasso always wanted to write a love story, so the 14-year-old knew immediately what type of book she would write.

"Love is a powerful thing and it's a subject most readers can relate to," she said.

Grasso said she found it "very easy" to write her book, "The Moving of a Lifetime." She said the book is "a love story with a twist" that occurs halfway through the book.

While she enjoyed the writing process and seeing her book in print, Grasso said writing for a specific purpose was much different than just writing for fun: "I had to be more precise, meet deadlines and keep to a page limit," she added.

The hardest part was editing and proofreading. "I had to read my book multiple times to make sure I didn't miss any mistakes I needed to fix," said Grasso. "Now, when I read a book I have a much better understanding of what the author puts into a book before it's even printed."

Higher expectations

Stephanie Harris, one of the AJHS English teachers involved with the program, said there were higher expectations of students in the second year.

"We didn't launch the first year of the program until January, so last year's classes had a much shorter and a more intense period of time in which to write their books than our students had this year," she said.

For the 2014-15 school year, students began the program in September, when they began discussing topics for their books. Some students, however, found coming up with an idea was the most difficult part.

"I started over several times, because my idea just wasn't going anywhere," said Hayley Sotolotto. So the 15-year-old gave



More than 300 student-authored books were on display at the June 11 book-signing event in the Agawam Junior High School library.



AJHS English teachers, from left, Anita Quinn, Sarah Kempesty and Stephanie Harris hold some of the books written by eighth graders that were recently published as part of the Future Authors Project..



AJHS student Kristofer Buendo,14, signs a copy of "The End," his book about zombies. Looking on is his grandmother, Pat Buendo. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS

up on her original idea and decided to try to expand a story she had started writing during the summer. "It was much better I only had to start over twice."

The expanded story became her book titled "Letters to an Exile," about a young boy who deals with his exiled father and who goes through some difficult times while writing letters to his father.

"It was cool to finally see it all come together," said Sotolotto. "I felt proud of my accomplishment when the book was published.

Kristofer Buendo, 14, had no trouble coming up with a story idea. A science fiction fan who likes watching movies and TV shows about zombies, he decided to put his spin on the zombie craze with his book, "The End." But actually writing the book was harder than he expected.

"I had writer's block for several months," Buendo said. "Then two weeks before I had to complete the book, something finally came to me."

Harris said that because students had more time to spend on their books this year, there was a difference in the quality of books that were published.

"Their work was a lot more serious than last year's class — they tackled some very

deep and profound topics," she said.

True story

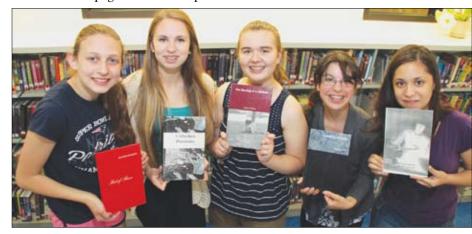
Thirteen-year-old Alexandra Humphries wrote about a teenager who is diagnosed with leukemia. Her book, "Bed of Roses," is fiction, but it's based on a true-life story.

"My aunt died from leukemia when she was a teenager, so this was a way to tell her story through a fictional character," said Humphries. "It was pretty easy to write after the first five pages. The hardest part for

me was taking what was in my head and putting it in words that made sense."

Humphries said she had always wanted to write a story and get it published. "It felt amazing to go through the whole process and see the finished book. I never thought it would happen."

AJHS Principal Norm Robbins called the project "a great accomplishment" for his students: "Not all students can say they're published authors before graduating from junior high school."



Eighth graders, from left, Alexandra Humphries, Sophia Strain, Jenna Grasso, Hayley Sotolotto and Eli Rodriguez show off copies of their published books.

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Grief Support Group

Next Meetings

Sunday, July 12 - 6:00pm

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St. John's announces upcoming trips

St. John's Travelers will host a bus trip to the Hu Ke Lau, 705 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, Wednesday, July 15, for a showing of the "I Love Lucy" and Ricky Show and a Polynesian show. Cost is \$62 per person and includes meal, taxes and server's tip. The bus will depart St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam, at 10:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 4 p.m.

A trip to MacHaydn Theater, 1925 N.Y. Route 203, Chatham, N.Y., is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 6 for a showing of "West Side Story." Cost is \$90 per person and includes a sit-down luncheon, reserved seats for the performance, meal taxes, gratuities and driver's gratuities. The bus will depart from St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam, at 10 a.m. and will return at 6:30 p.m. A \$10 deposit is required with reservation, with final payment due June 26.

For reservations on both trips, call Emile Cote at 413-335-9440.

POLICE ■ from page 1

Rossi, a former police officer in Agawam, had said in May that employing officers older than 65 — the retirement age for full-timers specified in state law — is "a significant risk."

Earlier in June, Cohen said 100 other Massachusetts communities have enacted similar laws allowing a later retirement age for part-time officers. He said any officer that is able to pass the physical and is declared fit for duty is an asset to the town, and could be a help working road details, which he said can be difficult to staff.

"I thought it was a fair compromise" to make the retirement age 68, said Cohen.

Although special police generally work on traffic control, the officers possess full police powers and carry weapons, just like the full-time police force. Although Council President Christopher Johnson had asked in May that special police be restricted to traffic work only, under Cohen's proposed legislation, they would remain fully sworn offi-

"People could come up to these police officers with a problem and they are expected to be able to respond to an issue," said Cohen. "I am not in favor of limiting their powers while on duty. I thought if age was a concern, I would lower the age to compromise."

Cohen said he hopes the revised proposal will meet council approval.

Speaking at Monday's subcommittee hearing, Police Chief Eric Gillis asked for another modification of the proposed legislation, to incorporate language from Chapter 85H of state law, granting compensation to part-time officers if they are injured while on duty. Special police officers could then be compensated at the salary rate of a first-step patrolman while injured, provided they are not also getting a pension from the Hampden County retirement system.

"We just need to clean up the language so people are not double-dipping," said Gillis.

Special Police Officer Mark Porrier also spoke at the meeting. He said the special officers are most concerned about injury compensation, having full police powers and not having to pay for training.

Gillis last month told the council that he generally supports the legislation. He said special police officers have been very helpful to the town in times of need, including the October 2011 snowstorm when power was out to more than 90 percent of the community for a week.

In May, Cohen had proposed that members of the City Council come back with a revised version of the legislation. Instead, he proposed the revised legislation. He contends allowing officers to work until age 68 or 70 is legal.

"You should know that I have consulted with our general counsel, our labor counsel, outside legal counsel and our chief of police extensively regarding this matter," said

According to the proposed bylaw, all special police officers are appointed and can be removed by the mayor. There is also a provision in Section 5 where the town or chief of police can restrict assignments of an individual special police officer as well as requirements to remain fit for duty.





Top billiards team

Agawam Senior Center Team 1 took first place in the billiards traveling league which ended in May. Other teams included two others from Agawam, the East Longmeadow Senior Center, the Hampden Senior Center and Snookers Billiard Club of Springfield. Team members are, from left, Jim Hirsch, Mike Kamyk, Tom Darlington, Bob Fournier, Mike Noble, John Carr and Chet Comins, captain. SUB-MITTED PHOTO

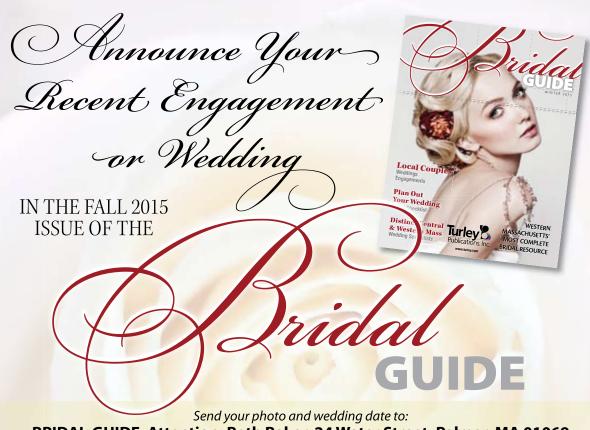


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If you would like your photos returned please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Photo must be received by August 15, 2015.



Jennifer Poulin & Bruce Bacon

Palmer, MA Wedding Date: Sept. 20, 2014

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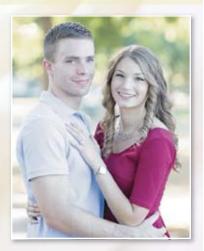
Name of Bride:

Bride's Residence:

Name of Groom:

Groom's Residence:

Date of Wedding:



Kayla Saraiva & Brendan Zdanis

Ludlow, MA/South Windsor, CT Date of Wedding: May 21, 2016



JoMaria Velez, far right, chairperson of the Realtor Association of Pioneer Valley Scholarship Committee, is pictured with recipients, from left, Shelby R. Telega, Garrett R. Lemieux, Isaac R. Pysz, Lindsay M. DiStefano, Hannah L. Elmer, Sabrinna O. Dubiel, Marina R. Mathur, Emme T. Hutchings and Abigail E. Taylor. Not pictured are recipients Stephen P. Hunt, Marissa M. Maiewski, Jaclyn A. Neilsen, Sarah E. Toomey and Emily L. Zeno. SUBMITTED PHOTO

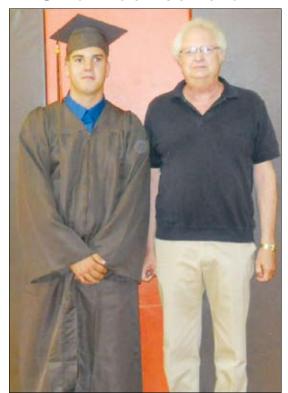
Realtors award 2 scholarships in town

This year marks the 41st year the Realtor Association of the Pioneer Valley has awarded scholarships to area high school graduates about to enter college. Fourteen students were awarded a total of \$10,856. Among the recipients were AHS graduates Sabrinna O. Dubiel and Jaclyn A. Nelsen.

Dubiel, the daughter of Susanne and Jeffery Dubiel of Agawam, will be attending Bay Path University. Her major is undecided.

Neilsen, the daughter of Kathleen Neilsen of Agawam, will be attending Endicott College majoring in business management.

Chamber scholar



Alan Rogers, right, a member of the West of the River Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, is pictured with Agawam High School graduate James Macey, a recipient of the club's annual scholarship. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kids play Bingo for books

he GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club recently held its annual Public Library. Children entering kin-Bingo with cards that had the names

of children's books, authors and characters on them. When they completed Bingo for Books at the Agawam a "Bingo," children were able to choose an age appropriate book. All children dergarten through fourth grade played who played went home with at least



Johnny Carra is trying to decide which book to select.



Selecting their first books are, from left, Sophie Signet, Brandi Smith and Kylee Vezina.



Sophia Sadowski shows the Bingo card that earned her a book.



Atlas LaFromboise is happy with his choice of books.



Abby Brown shows the book she selected.



Violet Pryce is ready to play "Bingo for Books."

KidsFest opens Wednesday with Prof. Paddy Whack

edition of KidsFest, brought to the public free of charge by the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department, with support from local businesses, will take place Wednesday.

All KidsFest shows start at 11 a.m. and are held outdoors at the Veterans Green, 689 Main St., next to Phelps School. In case of rain, Kids-Fest concerts will be cancelled.

The July 8 performance is Rick Adam as Professor Paddy Whack. Adam has been performing, teaching and inspiring people of all ages with music and theater for over 20 years. He has toured widely, from elementary schools to colleges to maximum-security

prisons, from Rhode Island to Russia. Featured on stage, television, radio and film. Adam has shared venues with Garth Brooks, Phyllis Diller, Dick Cavett, and the

The opening performance of the 2015 rock band Phish. He was featured on a PBS special about one-man bands, which is now in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institute. In 1998 and 2000 he performed for Bruce Springsteen at his home in New

> The 2015 concerts are brought to the public free of charge by the following corporate sponsors: Agawam Advertiser News,

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pic Manufacturing, Quality Auto, Republic Services, Sarat Ford, Ski Blandford, United Bank and Westfield Bank.



Pictured at this year's "Lace 'Em Up for Lexi" are Mario Tedeschi, right, and Donna Ormsby, Lexi's fifth grade teacher, now retired. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Classmate runs in memory of Lexi

Mario Tedeschi, a senior at Agawam High School, was among runners to take part in the seventh annual "Lace 'Em Up for Lexi 5K Run/Walk," Saturday, May 30, in Feeding Hills.

The race is held in memory of Lexi Jagodowski to benefit Griffin's Friends, a group of volunteers dedicated to providing support to children with cancer. Lexi lost her life to cancer in September 2008 and was one of many children that have received help from Griffin's Friends.

Tedeschi was a fifth-grade classmate of Lexi's and has run in every race. He was one of two recipients of a "Lexi Friends Award" scholarship and will attend Western New England University in the fall.

Grady scholar named

The opening act for this sum-

mer's edition of KidsFest will

be Professor Paddy Whack.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Agawam High School graduate Michael Reed, center, was a recipient of one of two R. Kenneth Grady Memorial Scholarships given to graduating seniors who plan to attend college and major in criminal justice. Grady was a former police chief in Agawam. From left, R. Kenneth Grady III, the former chief's grandson; Reed; and Agawam DARE Officer Karen Langevin. Not pictured is the other scholarship winner, Agawam High School graduate Irina Mita SUBMITTED PHOTO

CAMPUS NOTES

Lepianka, Lauren D. Malone, and Kimberly E. Moore, of Agawam; and Carly T. Cronin, Matthew R. Doherty, Richard J. Porfilio and Kathleen A. Stempel, of Feeding Hills, were named to the spring semester dean's list.

Elms College: Stacey Caplette, John Conway, Alyssa Febo, Carly Fellion, Brandon Montalvo, Diana Paskal, Jessica Perusse, Inna Radionova, Conor Rieker, Erica Van Newss and Alena Zabedyuk, of Agawam; and Laura Gomes, Joseph Grimaldi, Lauren Mazza and Anthony Nitri, of Feeding Hills, were named to the spring semester dean's list.

Fitchburg State University: Joshua E. Hodges, of Agawam; and Benjamin Clinton, Jordyn M. Conway and Ashley M. Jediny, of Feeding Hills, were named to the spring semester dean's list.

Springfield Technical Community College: Nedime Ahmeti, Aubrey Arpie, Todd Banaitis, Lauren Bava, Jeffrey Benson, Lisa Blair, Tatyana Chobotaru, Marc Couture-King, Sara Dauphinais, Il'ya Demka, Nicole Despang, Jeffrey Garfield, Jeffery Gilbert, Mallori Grimaldi, Colin Griswold, Rose Heurtelou, Matthew Jodoin, Zachary Lamsey, Rebecca Leithoff, Krystin Lynch, Kelly Martin, Allison Morris, Olesya Mudrenko, Jeffrey Mutti, Stephanie Nunez, Julie Palazzi, Jeffrey Pickett, Amy Pioggia, Liana Radionova, Bianca Sciartelli, Jaynish Shah, Vitaliy Shostak, Steven Signet, Sapa Truong, Matthew Vella, Bernard Wangamati, and Tasya Ward, of Agawam; and Antony Ashlaban, Marnie Budreau, Lisa Carney, Julia Devine, Tabitha Dintzner, Danielle Disca-

Bryant University: Erica L. Gallerani, Hadleigh E. wicz, Yelizaveta Dzyubenko, Adam Gay, Gabriel Graziano, Deborah Griffin, Donna Howe, Renate Klueh, Alesya Kot, Ashley Lagro, Jennifer Langheld, Joseph Marquette, Jessica McGregor, Sarah Meiers, Veronica Moquin, Denise Noyes, Phoebe Owuor, Elizabeth Rohan, Sara Roy, Samantha Sabola and Anthony Saccomani, of Feeding Hills, were named to the spring semester dean's list.

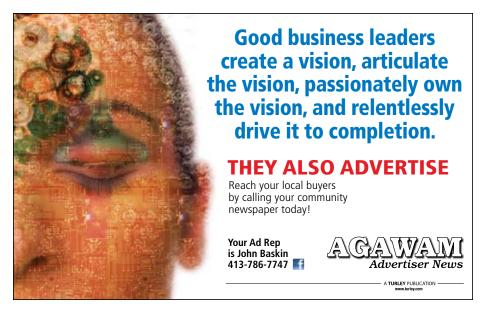
University of New Haven: Courtney Lussier, of Agawam, and Alyssa Berthiaume and Andrew Walles, of Feeding Hills, were named to the spring semester

Western New England University: Taylor Coulter, Samantha DeBiasio. Steven Fiedler. Richard Gingras. Katherine Matos, Alyssa McNair, Christina Raus, Emily Roundy and Lucas Santolini, Agawam; and Caitlin Heer, Samantha Lisee, Michael Masciadrelli, Brian Moriarty and Erika Prouty, of Feeding Hills, graduated at ceremonies held May 16. Adam M. Ardolino, Daniella A. Bessarabova, Taylor C. Coulter, Maura A. Curran. and Joeanna M. Glantz, Alyssa C. McNair, Christina L. Raus and Devin P. Ryan, of Agawam; and Christopher N. Goralczyk, Caitlin Heer and Adrianna M. Martinez, of Feeding Hills, were named to the spring semester president's list. Malik M. Calixte, Richard C. Gingras Jr., Robert R. Koziol, Christopher S. Martin, and Lauryn A. Winiarski, of Agawam; and Megan M. Alaimo, Phillip Boglisch, Gregory D. Gliddon, Allison A. Grubbs, Michael G. Masciadrelli, Amanda L. Rose, Jeffrey Rovatti, and Iman S. Shehemi, of Feeding Hills, were named to the spring semester dean's list.

Reidy elected a trustee



The Springfield College Board of Trustees recently announced its 2015-16 board elections during its annual meeting on the campus. Jonathan P. Reidy, a native of Agawam, was elected Springfield College student trustee. Reidy is an athletic training major and will be entering his senior year this fall. Springfield College President Mary-Beth Cooper, left, leads Reidy through the swearing-in ceremony. SUBMITTED PHOTO





AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Agawam Juniors learning as they go



Aiden Page fouls off a pitch.

Shortstop Jake Wieners lays down the tag at second base.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Curran picks up first professional hits

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - Seamus Curran has begun his professional baseball career in the Baltimore Orioles organization, and he got off to a great start in his first action playing for the Gulf Coast League

Curran was the 253rd overall pick in the eighth round of Major League Baseball's First-Year Player Draft.

Curran went 2-for-3 in his first full game in the minor leagues and is batting .286 in three games played. He has been playing first base for the Orioles, the position

he has spent most of his high school career playing.

He made his debut last Friday afternoon in a game between the Orioles and the Gulf Coast League Rays. Curran, spent his first week participating in practices and workouts after joining the league a day before games were scheduled to begin.

Curran acclimated to the heat, participating in six hours of practices the first few days before getting inserted in the bottom of the ninth as a pinch-hitter for left fielder Hernys Blanco. Curran was the potential game-winning run with another runner on base. Curran would walk, but he was

The runner in front of Curran was Frank Crinella, an alumnus of Agawam's nearby NECBL team, the Valley Blue Sox. The Blue Sox play home games in Holyoke.

Following his brief debut, Curran was inserted into a starting lineup for the first time with the Orioles, playing at the Rays again on Saturday, June 27.

He started at first base and was batting sixth in the order. In his first start, he went 2-for-3 with a run scored and two runs batted in. Curran hit a single and a double. The Orioles won 4-0 and Curran was off to a great start in

CURRAN I page 14

LITTLE LEAGUE

Little League playoffs kick off

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM - It is tournament time once again for the Agawam Little League and there are two teams gearing up for an opportunity to make it all the way to Williamsport, PA. and the Little League World Series.

There is also a new addition to the district all-star teams, with an age 7-9 group taking part in a competition this season.

The tournament season has already gotten off to a start for the 11-12 team, the main group that is looking for a chance to go to the World Series.

They have won their first two games in the competition. Agawam first defeated Easthampton last Thursday, beating the Eagles 11-0. Agawam continued its winning ways with a major defeat over Southampton, winning 20-0 in a game shortened to four innings by the mercy-rule. Agawam was defeated by Westfield in last year's District 2 finals.

Agawam will be going up against Belchertown and Longmeadow, as well as Westfield American and Amherst in a larger pool play competition before heading into the semifinals and finals of the tournament.

PLAYOFFS I page 14

Sports

Summer soccer begins

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School "B" team in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League was in action last Thursday evening at East Longmeadow High School. The Spartans picked up a 3-1 win over Agawam, which is being coached by David Hendrickson this summer. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHO-TOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI







Parks & Rec to sponsor youth field hockey

AGAWAM - The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department, 1000 Suffield St., will sponsor a Youth Field Hockey program for girls in grades 1 through 8 for the 2015-2016 school year. Participants will learn the fundamental skills, techniques and strategies of field hockey, while practicing and playing in the program. Girls will be broken into four different divisions:

Grades 1 and 2 Mites: grades 3 and 4, Bantam; grades 5 and 6 Junior; grades 7 and 8, Senior. Early registration for all divisions is July 1 - July 31. Cost is \$75 for early registration for Mites and Bantam, \$100 for Junior and Senior. Late registration for all divisions is Aug. 3 – Aug. 21. Cost is \$100 for Mites and Bantam and \$125 for Junior and Senior.

Girls will meet from late August through October. Practices are held in the early evenings and games will be played against neighboring communities.

The Mite program will practice on Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. for eight weeks beginning Sept. 10. Played at Stick Time, this is an opportunity for girls to get involved in field hockey and learn the fundamentals.

Players need to supply their own stick, goggles and outhpiece.

Registration is on going, at the Parks and Recreation office at 1000 Suffield St. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition, there will be an evening registration at the Agawam Public Library – Wednesday, July 22, from 6 to 8 p.m.

A mandatory meeting for all players and parents will take place Monday, Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Roberta Doering School cafeteria.

Youth golf program

AGAWAM - Agawam Parks and Recreation is holding registrations for its 2015 Junior Golf Program.

The program will take place on Wednesdays from July 8 through Aug. 19 with the program taking place at Agawam Municipal Golf Course, 128 Southwick St., Feeding Hills.

Golfers age 9-12 will play nine holes from 9 to 11 a.m. for a cost of \$79, while kids ages 13-17 will play 18 holes from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for \$99.

Lunch and beverage are included in the price.

Registration will be held at the Parks and Recreation office at 1000 Suffield St.

Participants are responsible for providing their own clubs, tees, balls, equipment and should bring plenty to drink on the course.

For more information on this program, please call Tony Roberto at 413-786-2194.

'Scramble for the Animals' seeks golfers

AGAWAM - Volunteers of the Westfield Homeless Cat Project and Open Arms Rescue, Inc., formerly Friends of the Westfield Regional Animal Shelter, Inc., are asking golfers to join them in their annual Scramble for the Animals, Aug. 2, at Oak Ridge Golf Club, 850 South Westfield St.

This year's goal of \$6,000 will help to save the lives of hundred's of cats and dogs in the greater Westfield area. The \$100 cost includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner and prizes. Dinner only is \$25.

Prizes for a hole-in-one include a new Subaru from Bertera Subaru, a \$3,500 value pool or spa from Teddy

Bear Pools and Spa and a cash prize of \$700. Other prizes include \$100 cash for closest to the pin male and female, and \$50 for longest drive male and female. Sign-up will be at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. The registration deadline is July 15.

Hole sponsorships are available for \$50. It can be in the name of a business, in honor of or in memory of a loved one or a pet. Raffle prizes will also be appreciated.

For more information and registration form, contact Marie Boccasile at 413-564-0589 or e-mail marieboccasile@gmail.com.

Tennis Club to host social mixer

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Tennis Club will host a social tennis mixer on Saturday, July 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Forest Park clay courts, 302 Sumner Ave. There will be a short club meeting at 9 a.m. to update members.

The mixer is for all levels of players, and no partners or reservations are needed. Players will be rotated for one-set doubles matches, and there will be prizes, games and refreshments.

For more information, call Sandie Powell at 413-301-5730.



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Oleksak places third at MGA qualifier

By Dave Forbes

Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer

ANDOVER - Andover Country Club hosted one of the 2015 Massachusetts Golf Association Amateur qualifiers on Monday, June 29, and one local resident had a good enough score that he qualified to compete in the championships later this summer.

Agawam resident Patrick Oleksak, who lists Longmeadow Country Club in Longmeadow as his home course, finished in third place as he shot a 1-under par 71 by firing a 35 on the front nine and a 36 on the back nine. He finished three shots behind the winner, Matthew Leger, of Gardner.

Oleksak started the round with a bogey

at the first hole, followed by pars at the second and third to stand at +1.

Oleksak then moved back to even and then 1-under with back-to-back birdies on the fourth and fifth holes. He slipped back to even with a bogey on six.

Oleksak then got back to 1-under with a birdie on seven and remained there after the turn with pars at eight and nine.

He started the back nine with a birdie on 10 and one at 12 to go to 3-under. He would remain there with pars at 13, 14, 15 $\,$ and 16, but finished the round with bogeys at 17 and 18 to finish at 1-under.

The championships are set for July 13-17 at Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg.

AHS schedules annual golf tourney

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School Athletic Department will host its 21st annual golf tournament to be held Saturday, Sept. 26, at Oak Ridge Country Club, 850 South Westfield St., Feeding Hills.

This tournament raises money to help support the athletes and coaches of the Agawam High School programs. Student athletes do not pay fees at Agawam High School as some do in other communities.

To participate as a major sponsor, golfer or tee sponsor or to donate a raffle prize, contact Dave Stratton in the Athletic office at 413-821-0529 or email dstratton@agawampublicschools.org.

JUNIORS **■** from page 12

tom of the fourth inning to increase their lead to 8-1.

Trailing 9-1 later in the game, Agawam was able to push across one more run with two outs in the last inning. Aiden Page would reach on a double and came around to score on a triple hit by Steve Grasso. Despite a pair of extra base hits, that was all the momentum Post 185 could muster and Agawam took the defeat.

Agawam would also fall 5-4 against Chicopee's Junior Legion team on June 18.

Chicopee led for the first few innings with single runs in the first and third. Agawam would come back with two runs in the fourth inning to tie the score.

Matt O'Keefe would walk and move along on a single by A.J. Kerr. Page would load the bases on a single, and Tom Grenier socked a two-run single to tie the game.

After retaking the lead, Agawam trailed 4-2 when Post 185 came up with two runs in the sixth inning to tie the game again.

Chicopee got the leadoff man on base in the seventh and walked off with the vic-

Agawam looks for its second win of the season when they are scheduled to host East Longmeadow at 5:45 p.m. at School Street Park. Agawam will also play Friday at Greenfield.

PLAYOFFS ■ from page 12

In the past, Agawam had been in a pool with just three other teams. The top two teams in pools A and B would have a small playoff to see who heads into the state tournament.

Agawam's 11-12 District team includes Kade Blackack, Noah Britton, A.I. Dillard, Connor Feyre, Nathan Jodoin, Dawson Mansfield, Jermaine Norfleet, Laine Page, Peter Parrotta, Garret Pelchat, Michael Santore, and Connor Twohig. Boo Smith is coaching the all-stars this year.

The 9-10 all-stars, which also fight for a World Series opportunity, have started off with a loss in pool play. They were defeated at home against Amherst last Friday eve-

The 9-10 team will next play against Northampton, followed by playing at Longmeadow Thursday at 6 p.m. and at Belchertown on Sunday evening under the lights at the Mini-Fenway field.

The 10-11 division, which reaches statelevel competition, suffered a 19-7 loss in eight innings against Westfield American on Saturday. They were in action on Monday against Longmeadow, and then are off until playing against Longmeadow July 8.

Agawam also has Junior 12-14 and Senior teams (14-16) participating the tournament.

The Junior team picked up a win last Wednesday at Southampton, 11-10, in seven innings. They were scheduled to play Easthampton Wednesday night and are in action again on Friday at home against Westfield.

The Senior team has two losses already against Westfield, Agawam and Westfield are the only teams in District 2. Westfield had a chance to clinch the series on Tuesday evening. If Agawam were to win, the teams would play against Thursday at Agawam at 5:30 p.m.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

CURRAN ■ from page 12

his professional career.

After an off-day Sunday, the Orioles were back in action against the Gulf Coast League Red Sox, the rookie affiliate of the Boston Red Sox.

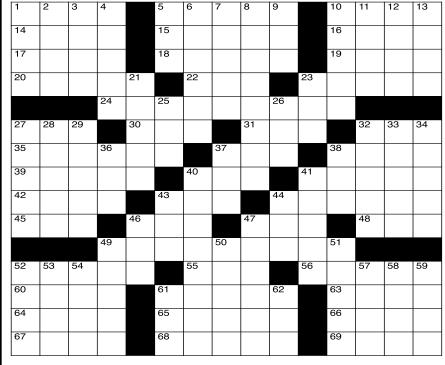
Curran's performance brought him up to fourth in the batting order, where he faced a couple of tough Red Sox prospects and went 0-for-4 with his first strikeout of the season. Curran played first base in that

Despite the tough day, Curran was right back in the lineup on Tuesday morning against the same Red Sox team, though this time the Orioles are the home team. As of press time, Curran was in the lineup batting fourth at first base again.

He was 1-for-2 with a single in the fourth

Curran has played flawless defense in his first two games, converting on all 19 total chances he has had.

The Orioles are 2-5 on the young Rookie-A season. The season lasts through the summer months.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Suns
- 5. Bog
- 10. Woodcutter hero Ali 14. Aquatic reptile (abbr.)
- 15. Cape Verde capital
- 16. Chemical compounds
- 17. Maple genus 18. "All on deck"
- 19. Roman public squares 20. Leavened rum cakes
- 22. Quilting gathering
- 23. Large hero sandwich
- 24. Oprah's BFF 27. London radio station
- 30. Downwind
- 31. Frosty 32. Brake horsepower
- 35. In a way, removes
- 37. Bridge-building degree
- 38. Mother of the Titans 39. Nostrils
- __ choy: Chinese
- 41. A.K.A. rose-red spinel

cabbage

- 42. Blue goose genus 43. Take in solid food
- 44. Speak incoherently 45. Chop with an axe 46. Wrapped package
- (abbr.) 47. Auricle
- 48. Former CIA 49. Highway Patrol's
- Crawford 52. Yemen capital
- (1584-1643)56. Expressed pleasure
- 60. First Chinese dynasty
- 61. Indian dresses 63. Swiss river 64. Teen skin disease
- 65. Takes dictation 66. Husk of wheat 67. Went quickly
- 68. Stud with jewels 69. Recess
- CLUES DOWN 1. Wound crust

- 3. Leopold & _
- 4. Bony piece of meat 5. Speed measure (abbr.)
- 6. Productive land 7. Rajah's wife 8. Close companion
- 9. Possesses 10. Make less visible
- 11. Buffalo 12. Tennis player Bjorn 55. John ___, Br. statesman 13. Mountain range in Kyrgyszstan
 - 21. Gross revenue 23. Honey (abbr.) 25. Affirmative
 - 26. Frozen water 27. Carpenter's work table
 - 28. ___, Danish astronomer 29. 1977 AL MVP Rod 32. Italian Air Marshal
 - Italo 33. Mends 34. Bullfighting maneu-
 - 36. 1/100 yen

- Board of Trade 38 Idle talk
- 40. Hairless scalp
- 41. Hannibal's surname 43. Old Tokyo
- 44. Spoken in the Dali region 46. Women's undergar-
- ment 47. Weasel's winter fur
- 49. Blatted 50. Medieval circuit courts
- 51. Muslim shrine in Mecca 52. Former ruler of
- Iran 53. Fungal spore sacs
- 54. Baseball team # 57. Stringed instrument 58. Geological times
- 59. Sandy piece of seashore 61. Sino-Soviet block
- (abbr.)
- 62. Drunkard

Answers on page 8

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> A **TURLEY** PUBLICATION www.turley.com

A preview of our weekly stories are updated every Tuesday!

Despirt Marble and Granite celebrates 25 years

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

When Santo Despirt told his wife Laura he wanted to start a business installing slabs for kitchens, counters and mantles, she did not have a positive reaction.

But 25 years later, Laura Despirt and her grandson, Philip Scoville, help run the business Santo left behind three and a half years ago when he passed away. And now that business, Santo Despirt Marble and Granite Inc., is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Scoville was just born when the business opened in July of 1990. From a young age, Scoville, who grew up in Agawam, spent most of his childhood working with his "Papa." As he got older, he would spent summers learning the craft of designing and conditioning slabs, and eventually

became as skilled as Santo at installing them. Scoville would graduate from Agawam High School and went to Union College in New York, where he majored in business and met his current girlfriend, Alicia Corning.

Corning then became a part of the family, and part of the family business.

"I just loved Papa and he kept having me come work there when I was off from school," said Corning. Now, Corning helps to run the showroom and runs the business' website and promotional materials.



The late Santo Despirt and his grandson Philip Scoville. Scoville has taken over part-ownership of Santo Despirt Marble and Granite. The business is celebrating 25 years this month. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Laura Despirt and Scoville are formal partners in the business, and with a similar vision of how things are supposed to be, their relationship runs as deep as their blood.

'We both believe in making sure we are doing quality work and not cutting corners," said Despirt. "My husband took pride in doing quality work and he taught Philip to do the same."

Scoville originally planned to be a dentist, but said he inherited his father's passion for the business, and graduated college to come back to

"It's really a tradition," said Scoville. "My Papa

was adamant that he grew up in Agawam and that he would have his business here. He loves this town."

The business has done some transition over the years. While Santo specialized in slab design and installation, tiles were a different type of business. Scoville still only installs slabs, but customers can also count on the business to sell high-end quality tiles.

The family also embraced animals into their business. Scoville and Corning have two dogs, Kodiak and Danby, both named after rocks, that are regularly used in advertisements and spend time at the show room. Despirt's cat Lucky is also there.

"We get a lot of children that come to the showroom so that gives them something to do while their parents are looking around,"

said Despirt.

Despirt agrees 25 years is good for any business, but says the fact they sell a luxury item is an even bigger accomplishment.

'We really sell something people do not have to have," said Despirt. "And our business has had ups and downs. It has really started to pick up more recently, though."

Scoville said he plans to continue the business as it is and hopes to continue to embrace the family spirit he inherited from his grandfa-

Agawam **Advertiser News Obituary Policy**

DEATH NOTICES

Larivee, Susanne Died June 23, 2015

Funeral June 26, 2015 West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Lynch, Joseph J.

Died June 22, 2015

Funeral June 26, 2015

Agawam Funeral Home

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may

include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries**

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Legals

AGAWAM CONSERVATION **COMMISSION** LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Tirone for property known as Lot A Federal Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman **Agawam Conservation** Commission

7/2/15

AGAWAM CONSERVATION **COMMISSION** LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 6:10 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for termination of Applica bility of Tirone for property known as Lot C Federal Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman Agawam Conservation Commission

7/2/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street** Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD14P0549EA **Estate of: Anthony** Theodore Spryzenski Date of Death: 01/14/2014 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER TO RENDER

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: Toomey O'Brien Funeral Home of Springfield MA requesting that the Court enter an Order that Lee A Spryzenski of Agawam MA be ordered to render an Account and for such other relief as requested in the peti-

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 07/16/2015.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Anne **M Geoffrion,** First Justice of Date: June 18, 2015

Suzanne T. Seguin

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam **Public Library Community** Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on Monday. July 13, 2015 at 6:30PM for all parties interested in the appeal of Michael and Andrea Fusick, who are seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-7 which would allow for the construction of an addition to a residential structure with less than the required front setback and side yard at the premises identified as 107 Fairview Street.

Doreen Prouty Chairperson Agawam Board of Appeals 6/25,7/2/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Hampden Probate and Family Court** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD15P1112EA Estate of:

Joseph Thomas Russo

Also known as: Joseph T Russo Date of Death: 03/29/2015 CITATION ON PETITION FOR **FORMAL** ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Barbara A Russo of Agawam MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Barbara A Russo of Agawam MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administra-

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/14/2015.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE

MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Anne M Geoffrion, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 16, 2015

Suzanne T. Seguin Register of Probate

7/2/15

LEGAL AD **AGAWAM** CONSERVATION **COMMISSION**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a July 9, 2015 at 6:30 PM, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Champagne for work to be performed on Lot 4 Cynthia Place subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman **Agawam Conservation** Commission

7/2/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Hampden Probate and Family Court** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD08P2639EA **Estate of:** Paulene L Paquette Date of Death 11/18/2008 CITATION ON

PETITION FOR ORDER TO RENDER

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: Lorraine Paquette of Chicopee MA requesting that the Court enter an order that Scott E Skolnick of Feeding Hills MA be ordered to render an Inventory, render an Account and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 07/15/2015.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, ction may be taken further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Anne **M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 17, 2015

Suzanne T. Seguin Register of Probate 7/2/15

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to klanier@turley. com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-

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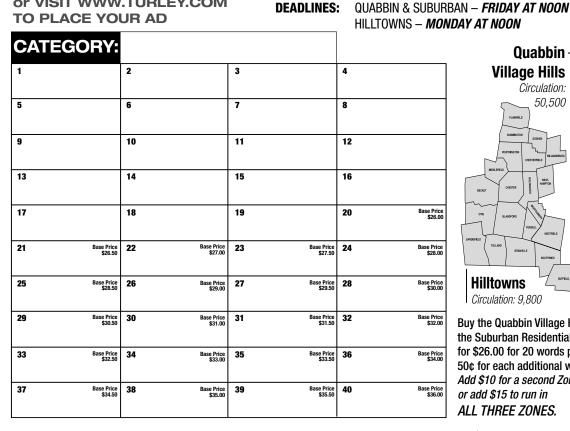
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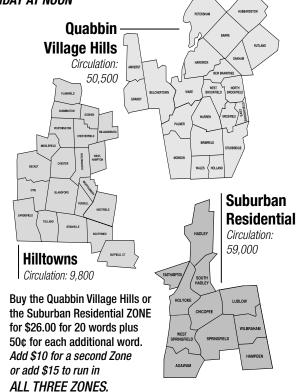
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Real Estate



Mobile Homes

WALES 1982, 24'x44'. Newer H2O, furnace, appliances, roof. Two porches, patio with awning, two sheds, private yard, dead end \$59,900. **413-593-9961** street.

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such oreference, limitation. discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

For Rent

LUDLOW 3 BR house, \$1,200 monthly includes water. 1st, last, security required. Central air, w/d hook-ups. (413)610-0070.

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WARM WEATHER IS year round in Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-bedroom weeks available, Sleeps 8, \$3500, Email: carolaction@aol.com for more

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\$\$\$ AUTOS WANTED TOP Dollar paid for your unwanted cars, trucks, vans, big and small, running or not. Call 413-534-5400.

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FOR RENT



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

LUDLOW 2 BR modern. luxurv. 1st fl apt. All Appliances, hardwood Flrs, A/C, dishwasher, disposal, microwave. extra storage includes HW, extra parking. No pets (413)342-7009

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Stop by for our OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015, 10AM-6PM

West Springfield Meeting House 24 Prospect St., West Springfield, MA 01089

Positions are available for Springfield, South Hadley and West Springfield facilities.

We have opportunities for:

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RNs & LPNs Full-time & Part-time

On-site interviews

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Full-time & Part-time - Various Shifts

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· Take a tour of our beautiful facility

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FOR SALE 9 Building Lots South Belchertown, MA

Bardwell Street and South Washington Street Plot plan posted on South Washington Street **Building lots recorded Hampshire County** Registry of Deeds, Book 234, page 61

Private sale of building lots until July 14, 2015

Lots not sold will be sold at Public Auction on September 12, 2015 to settle estate of Sebastain E. Dudek

Contact Thomas Spellman (Executor) (413)896-9515



Contact NORTH BROOKFIELD SAVINGS BANK for financing options! (866)711-6272 -EQUAL HOUSING WWW.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com

Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@ turlev.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Sunday, July 5

A PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION SERVICE is open to the public at Christian Life Center, 1590 Sumner Ave., Springfield, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Special music, guest appearances by "President George Washington" and "President Abraham Lincoln." followed by a picnic for all on the church grounds following the service. For more information, call 413-782-7171.

Wednesday, July 8

SUPER CRAFTERNOON at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., as part of the summer reading program. For children ages 3 to 8. Assistance provided by teen volunteers to use superpowers to create something fabulous.

THE REGION 16 ARABAIN HORSE SHOW CHAM-PIONSHIP will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. starting today through Saturday, July 11, in the Coliseum on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission is free.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is

Thursday, July 9

AUNT HELEN'S GARDEN TOUR takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Storrowton Village Museum on the grounds of the Big E., 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission is free.

Friday, July 10 The New England Sheep Sale and Northeast YOUTH SHEEP SHOW takes place from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. today through Sunday, July 12, in the Mallary Complex on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission is free.

NORTH HALL ARTS FESTIVAL OPEN MIC MUSIC JAM at 7 p.m. Free admission. Performers determine format. Public welcome. Visit www.northhallhuntington.org.

Saturday, July 11

THE Springfield Tennis Club will host a social tennis mixer from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Forest Park clay courts, 302 Sumner Ave. There will be a short club meeting at 9 a.m. to update members. The mixer is for all levels of players; no partners or reservations needed. For more information, call Sandie Powell at 413-301-

Sunday, July 12

NORTH HALL ARTS FESTIVAL presents Jose Gonzalex & Sons Criollo Clasico: Classical, folk and contemporary Latin music. Admission \$10 at the door; students free. Open seating. Visit Visit www.northhallhuntington.org.

Monday, July 13

AREA JOURNALIST ELIZABETH ROMAN returns to the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., at 7 p.m. with more ice cream for grownups to taste and rate. This is an adult only event. To register, call 413-789-1550 ext. 4, or online at www.agawamlibrary.org.

Tuesday, July 14

THE REGION SIX CHAMPION SHOW sponsored by the Region 6 American Quarter Horse Affiliates takes place today through Sunday, July 19, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is free.

Keeping fit



Peter Juliak, center, demonstrates the new Sci Fit cardiovascular fitness machine at the Agawam Senior Center to Mayor Richard Cohen and Senior Center Director Joan Linnehan. The machine was purchased using a \$5,000 wellness grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield. About \$300 in grant money remains unspent, according to Linnehan, and may be combined with Friends of the Senior Center funds to purchase a rowing machine. SUBMITTED PHOTO

A CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN MUSICAL HEROES with Craig Harris, a family event that begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. This musical program uses a fun-filled range of songs to pay tribute to the pioneers of American music, including Armstrong, Gershwin, Guthrie, Seeger, Dylan and Charles. To register, call 413-789-1550 ext. 4, or online at www.

Wednesday, July 15

RICK SPENCER WILL PRESENT a living history lecture, "To End All Wars: Songs for the 1st World War," at 6:30 p.m. at the Noble & Cooley Center for Historical Preservation, 42 Water St., Granville at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 413-357-6321.

Thursday, July 16

THE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES sponsored by the West Springfield Parks & Recreation Department continues from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Storrowton Village Green on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., with a performance by the Ethel Lee Ensemble. Admission is free.

Monday, July 20

EDIBLE PLANTS WALK & TALK at 6:30 p.m. with Rich Giordano, of All Hill Farm in West Brookfield and the Sturbridge Village Historic Herb Garden, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Wear comfortable shoes for a walk behind the library and high school searching for edible plants. The best time of year for harvest and recipes will be discussed. To register, call 413-789-1550 ext. 4, or online at www.agawamlibrary.org.

Tuesday, July 21

HANNA PERLSTEIN MARCUS, AUTHOR OF "SIDO-

NIA'S THREAD" at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Born to a talented seamstress in a displaced persons camp, attendees will hear how Marcus searched for the identity of her absent father, the reasons for her Holocaust-survivor mother's reclusive life in America and why she can't sew. Much of this book is set locally in Springfield. To register, call 413-789-1550 ext. 4, or online at www.agawamlibrary.org.

Wednesday, July 22

SUPER CRAFTERNOON at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., as part of the summer reading program. For children ages 3 to 8. Assistance provided by teen volunteers to use superpowers to create something fabulous.

ONGOING

OPEN HOUSE TOURS at Storrowton Village Museum, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, take place now through Aug. 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$5 and free for children under 6. For more information, call 413-787-0127.

THE WESTFIELD FARMERS MARKET is held every Thursday afternoon from 12:30 - 6 p.m. on the lawn of the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, 36 Court St., until Oct. 8. Free parking available. Locally grown flowers, plants, vegetables, honey and bee products, maple syrup, goat meat and goats' milk products, relishes and jams, baked goods, forested pork, free range chicken and eggs, wine, hot cider donuts, and more. SNAP EBT cards accepted. A \$5 transaction will provide SNAP customers \$10 worth of credit.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www. survivorjourneys.org.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 888-613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deduct-

Agawam Senior Center -

Lunch Menu

Monday, July 6: Chicken and rice soup, meatball grinder, three-bean salad, watermelon.

Tuesday, July 7: Roast chicken Florentine, seasoned rice, glazed carrots, birthday cake. Wednesday, July 8: Stuffed peppers, mashed po-

tatoes, corn, mixed fruit. Thursday, July 9: Chicken supreme, mashed chive

potatoes, peas, pudding. Friday, July 10: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, spinach, apricots.

Calendar of Events

Monday, July 6: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., Line Dancing; 10 a.m., Fallon Insurance; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold

Tuesday, July 7: 9 a.m., Shuffleboard at St. John's (Leonard Street), SHINE (by appt.); 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Movie; 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line

Wednesday, July 8: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1:30 p.m., Agawam Golden Agers Chapter 1; 7 p.m., School Street Park, Union Jack Concert.

Thursday, July 9: 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6:30 p.m., Pitch, Evening Line Dancing.

Friday, July 10: 8 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 1:30 p.m., Ice Cream

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



North graduates basic training

U.S. Air National Guard Airman 1st Class David J. North graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air

He is a 2014 graduate of Agawam High School.



Pond tour to stop in town

This year's garden pond tour will include two stops Agawam.

The Pioneer Valley Water Garden and Koi Club's 22nd annual self-guided pond tour is set for 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 11-12. Local exhibitors include Ed and Kris Champigny, and Peter and Elaine Stassen.

The tour is organized and run by volunteers from the nonprofit club, which was founded to "create, promote and enlarge the hobby of water gardening; the keeping, breeding, appreciating and exhibiting of koi and/or ornamental fish; to disseminate information about the hobby to the membership and the public; and to engage in educational and social activities related to the hobby." The club

donated and built a waterfall at Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield, and is reviewing other sites and organizations to which it can donate a water feature.

Tickets are \$20 per car, sold at local pond and garden supply vendors throughout the Pioneer Valley and northern Connecticut. Vendors include Dave's Soda and Pet Food City at 151 Springfield St., Agawam. For a full list of ticket sellers or for more information about the event, visit www.pioneervalleypondclub.com/Pond_ Tour.htm.

Stops on this year's pond tour range from Blandford to Belchertown. A brochure listing the addresses of the exhibitors will be provided upon the purchase of a

Housing Authority wins literacy award

The Agawam Housing Authority has won an award from a statewide public housing association for an innovative early literacy outreach program for children ages 3 to 7 who live in AHA public housing.

The program, established in partnership with Agawam public schools and the Early Childhood Center, ensures that all residents of family housing have weekly access to books and literacy-based materials. In recognition, Agawam was presented with an Outstanding Agency Award from the Massachusetts Chapter, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, at its annual conference in Hyannis.

Agawam Housing Authority Executive Director Maureen M.

Cayer said the idea for the program began after a family unit was taken off-line to provide space for families seeking afterschool help from certified teachers. She said it soon became clear that the younger children wanted the attention that the older ones were getting, so the ECC obtained a grant to staff a part-time literacy intervention specialist at the Brady Village development.

The program, which started with one book for each child in the participating households, has grown into a weekly book swap in which 18 families are participating in cooperation with the public schools and the ECC. The sessions also include interactive playgroups that support young families. The pro-

gram operates at no cost to the housing authority.

"The Agawam Housing Authority believes that public housing is a place to grow, improve and become an active member of society," said Cayer. "The book swaps have produced a group of children who love reading and who have learned how to care for a book. Parental involvement is also a key part of these afterschool sessions. This program is a tremendous success because it is helping each member of the family to achieve their highest potential, so we appreciate this special recognition from Mass-NAHRO."

MassNAHRO represents more than 240 local housing authorities across Massachusetts.

Apple Jam confirms new venue, event date

RUSSELL — The 2015 Apple Jam Roots Music Festival will take place Friday, Aug. 21, through Sunday, Aug. 23, at Camp Moses Reservation in Russell. This sixth Apple Jam will continue the tradition of featuring American roots genres, including bluegrass, blues, indie, funk, rock and Americana.

"Apple Jam has always been such a positive, family-friendly experience," said founder Gary Phelps. "I am excited to see it in larger scale at such a fantastic venue."

Camp Moses Reservation is located at 310 Birch Hill Road, Russell. The reservation's 1,600 wooded acres will provide an idyllic background for the festival's spirit of harmony and con-

The growth of the festival this year has included a partnership with a talented group dedicated to creating premier, communitydriven events throughout Western Massachusetts.

The Apple Jam was originally created in 2007 by Phelps to provide a meeting ground for the family of bands and fans accumulated through his music career. It has since evolved into a more inclusive event that promotes original, roots-based music and encourages a widespread kinship through the shared musical experience. The festival was

previously held in the Bondsville section of Palmer.

For more information, visit www.theapplejam.com.

Blood drive to benefit Red Cross

The Knights of Columbus will host a blood drive to benefit the Red Cross blood bank, Tuesday, July 21, from noon to 5 p.m. The event will take place at Sacred Heart Church, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. For more information, call 413-786-3091.



THE DVR IS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS TO HAPPEN TO TELEVISION

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Local newspapers are also preferred in a 3-1 margin over TV, showing consistency from previous research. On average, readers of a 2012 survey spent 39.92 minutes reading local newspapers, up slightly more than the 38.95 minutes in 2011 and 37.5 minutes in 2010. The best medium to fast forward your business message remains in print.

